

The Hong Kong Daily Press

No 4453

日八初月正年申壬治同

HONGKONG, FRIDAY, 16TH FEBRUARY, 1872.

五拜禮 號六十月二英 港香

[PRICE \$2 PER MONTH]

Arrivals.

Feb. 15, TAIKUN, North German bk., 355, Holler, Singapore January 5th, 7,500 piculs Rice.—W.M. PUSTAU & Co. Feb. 15, JOHANN SMID, North Ger. bk., 400, Hagenau, Saigon January 18th, Rice.—BOURGAT, HUENDER & Co. Feb. 15, SAN NANCY, Brit. str., 722, Drage, Canton 15th February, General—JAS. DINE, MATTHESON & Co. Feb. 15, GLENDALE, Brit. str., 954, Hall, Canton 15th February, General—A. FRAND & Co. Feb. 15, OTTAWA, Brit. str., 1,274, Hockin, Whampoa 15th February.—P. & O. S. N. Co. Feb. 15, TRAVANCORE, Brit. str., 1,899, Eastley, Canton 15th February, General—P. & O. S. N. Co. Feb. 16, FORMOSA, Brit. str., 710, Young, from East Coast, General—D. LAPRAK & Co.

Departures.

Feb. 15, MEI-KONG, str., for Saigon. Feb. 15, GLENDALE, str., for Singapore & Calcutta. Feb. 15, HINDOSTAN, str., for Singapore and Calcutta. Feb. 15, HEEA, for Whampoa. Feb. 15, AGRA, for Whampoa. Feb. 15, SCHLEUT DELTSCH, for Manila. Feb. 15, LOUISA, for Tsinian. Feb. 15, SCHWAN, for Saigon. Feb. 15, COLOMBO, for Saigon.

Clearances.

AT THE HAWTHORN MARTIN'S OFFICE, 15TH FEBRUARY.

Scheat, for Saigon. Colombo, for Saigon.

Passengers.

For Hindostan, for Singapore, &c.—Mr. Barradans and servant, Mr. Leith, 1 Euro-pan deck and 19 Chinese.

Reports.

The North German bark *Tzitzis* reports left Singapore on 15th January, had the first part of passage, cloudy weather, to Ballock Island, then moderate monsoon to Luzon Coast, from thence fresh monsoon and high sea till arrival on February 15th.

The North German bark *Johann Smid* reports left Saigon on 15th January, experienced strong Northerly gales and high sea the first four days out, then moderate monsoon to the Coast of Luzon, when had three days calms, then high winds; after which strong N.E. monsoon and high sea, attended with thick weather, to arrival on February 15th.

Auction Sales To-day.

THOMAS G. GLOVER.
Grey Shirtings, T-Cloth, and Cotton Yarn.

LANE, CRAWFORD & Co.
Sundry Articles.

AYRES & Co.
Household Furniture.

HONGKONG RACE FUND, 1872.

THE SUBSCRIPTION LIST is now lying at the HONGKONG CLUB.

Tickets of Admission to the Stand are to be obtained from the undersigned on and after 12th instant.

Grand Stand, for the meeting, \$5.
New Stand, do, \$3.

E. ARTHUR.
Hon. Treasurer.

ff 278 Hongkong, 10th February, 1872.

CARRIAGES FOR THE RACES.
Just arrived from England.

PARK PHAETON, with Turn-over Seat.

1 Do. Do. with Bumble.

1 Do. Do. Do.

1 PARISIAN PHAETON, Do.

1 SOCIABLE Do. Do.

1 WAGONETTE.

LANE, CRAWFORD & Co.

ff 293 Hongkong, 13th February, 1872.

RAOES! RAOES! RAOES!!!

THE Undersigned begs to announce that he has obtained permission to erect a Pavilion at the Race Course, adjoining the Grand Stand enclosure, where Tiffin and Refreshments can be had.

Seat commanding a view of the whole Course.

Wines, Spirits, and Beer of the best quality.

Entrance to the Pavilion, \$1.00.

J. R. WHITE.
Commercial Billiard Rooms,

Queen's Road.

25 REWARD.

OST on Sunday, a Half Bred Black and White Japanese BITCH, answers to the name of "KOBIE," has a lump underneath her body. Whoever has found the same and will bring it to Messrs. KWONG-KEE & Co., Endcott's Lane, shall receive the above reward.

Alv 298 Hongkong, 14th February, 1872.

\$30 REWARD.

THE UNDERTMENTIONED AEMS, viz.,

No. 5,224, 1 double barrelled Lefacheux GUN,

12 bore;

5,500 1 do. do. do. do. do.

5,532 1 do. do. do. do.

5,572 1 do. Central Fire GUN, 12 bore;

By J. Wesley & Sons, London;

And,

No. 9,768, 1 double EFILE B.

Dreyse, Sonnenfeld;

10,127, 1 Nettle CARBINE, do;

having been stolen on the night of the 5th instant from our premises, a REWARD of

THIRTY DOLLARS.

is hereby offered to any person or persons, who shall assist in the recovery of the stolen property.

At the same time, the public is warned against purchasing the said Arms.

WM. SCHMIDT & Co.

Gunmakers, Queen's Road.

ff 267 Hongkong, 17th February, 1872.

A. BORG.

TINNER AND GALVANIZER,

IRON, CHAIN, PIPES,

AND

ALL KINDS OF IRON WORK GALVANIZED.

ff 226 On REASONABLE TERMS. [Feb. 1

P. BENNETT, W. H. HENRIQUES,

D. H. TILLISON & Co.

BAKERS, COMPA RADORES,

NAVAL CONTRACTORS,

KOBE (HIGO), JAPAN,

6m 120 Hongkong, 17th January, 1872.

BATAVIA SEA AND FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

THE Undersigned, having been appointed Agents in Hongkong for the above-named Company, are prepared to grant Policies against Sea Risks at current rates.

RUSSELL & Co.

ff 1023 Hongkong, 1st February, 1865.

G. SHIP CHANDLER,

TAXI.

Shipping supplied on most reasonable Terms.

3m 65] [Jan. 9

Banks.

THE BANK OF CHINA.

CAPITAL—\$2,500,000, in 25,000

Shares of \$100 each;

25 per Share payable on allotment,

and the remainder in such sums and

at such times as the Directors may

determine, but so that at least three

months' notice shall be given of every

call;

WITH POWER TO INCREASE TO

\$10,000,000.

Provisional Committee.

O. O. BENN, Esq.

Messrs. W. Postau & Co.

FRANKE HOMMEL, Esq.

Messrs. Francke Hommelle & Co.

A. A. HAYES, Jr., Esq.

Messrs. Oliphant & Co.

C. J. KENN, Esq.

Messrs. Chapman, King & Co.

B. W. LITTLE, Esq.

Messrs. Little & Co.

J. A. MATTIET, Esq.

Messrs. Thorne Brothers & Co.

D. REED, Esq.

Messrs. Reid & Co.

Standing Counsel.

W. M. BROWN, Esq., Barrister-at-Law.

Secretary to the Provisional Committee,

JAMES GIFFILIAN, Esq.

It is proposed to establish in Shanghai a Limited Banking Company, with the above title, in the belief that there is not only room, but actual necessity, for the additional facilities which such an institution will afford to the large local, coasting, and foreign trade which centres in this port.

The great extension of steam communication both by sea and river, and the creation of telegraphic connections, since the existing Local Bank was founded, have rendered it necessary to have a bank of this kind in the great depth of North China; but, while it seems desirable that Shanghai should be the head-quarters of the new Bank, and its direction on the spot where the principal interests are involved, a local Committee will be formed in Hongkong for the promotion of the undertaking.

The success of other public companies in Shanghai and Hongkong, and the evidence of a large sum of money seeking investment in Chinese institutions, will, it is believed, be a strong inducement to the shareholders of this Bank to aid in its establishment.

Merchants have already come forward as active promoters and supporters of the undertaking, and the Committee looks for a very valuable constituency from Chinese sources.

The legal constitution of the Bank is engaging the consideration of the Committee, and reference has been made to London and elsewhere for the best legal advice upon the subject, and it is understood that no Shareholder will be compelled to subscribe to the new constitution until the same has been completed, when further information will be laid before the Shareholders.

In the meantime, applications for shares are invited, until the 15th April, 1872, but must be on the prescribed forms, which can be obtained from the Secretary.

By order of the Provisional Committee,

J. GIFFILIAN, Esq., Secretary.

Shanghai, 17th January, 1872. [212

HONGKONG & SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL \$5,000,000 of Dollars.

Court of Directors:

Chairman—Hon. R. ROWNTREE, Esq.

Deputy Chairman—T. FRYER, Esq.

R. R. SALLIES, Esq.

A. J. COOK, Esq.

W. W. LITTLE, Esq.

E. M. BROWN, Esq.

Monitors:

Hongkong—James Greig, Esq.,

Chief Manager.

Shanghai—David McLean, Esq.

London Bankers—London and County Bank.

HONGKONG, 13th February, 1872.

INTEREST ALLOWED.

On Current Deposit Accounts as theretofore.

On Fixed Deposits on the daily balance,

For 3 months' 2 per cent. per annum.

6 " 4 "

12 " 5 "

LOCAL BILLS DISCOUNTED.

Credits—granted on approved Securities, and every description of Banking and Exchange business transacted.

Drafts—granted on London, and the chief commercial places in Europe, India, Australia, America, China and Japan.

JAMES GREIG, Chief Manager.

Offices of the Corporation.

No. 1, Queen's Road East.

Hongkong, 9th September, 1871.

INTEREST ALLOWED.

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The Chronicle and Directory for 1872.

NOW READY.

THIS Work, now in the TENTH year of its existence, is ready for delivery. It has been compiled and printed at the Daily Press Office, as usual, from the best and most authentic sources, and no pains have been spared to make the work complete in all respects.

In addition to the usual varied and voluminous information, the value of "CHRONICLE AND DIRECTORY FOR 1872" will be further augmented by the addition of a Chromo-lithograph plate of the NEW CODE OF SIGNALS IN USE.

AT THE PEAK:

THE VARIOUS HOUSE FLAGS.
(Designed expressly for this Work):MAPS OF HONGKONG, JAPAN,
and of theTHE COAST OF CHINA;
besides other local information and statistics corrected to date of publication, tending to make this work in every way suitable for Public, Mercantile, and General Offices.

The Directory will be published in Two Forms, Complete at \$5; or with the Lists of Residents, Port Directories, Maps, &c., at \$3.

Orders for Copies may be sent to the Daily Press Office, or to the following Agents:—Mr. PATRICK CAMPBELL.

Amy.—Messrs. WILSON, NICHOLLS & Co., FORMOSA.—Mr. WILSON, NICHOLLS & Co.

Fuchow.—Mr. HEDD & Co.

Ningpo.—Mr. KELLY & Co., Shanghai.

Shanghai.—Mr. HEDD & Co.

Hankow and ... Mr. HALL & HOYES and KELLY & Co., Shanghai.

Cieffo and ... Mr. HALL & HOYES and KELLY & Co., Shanghai.

Tientsin and ... Mr. HALL & HOYES and KELLY & Co., Shanghai.

Nanking and ... Mr. HALL & HOYES and KELLY & Co., Shanghai.

Hengchow.—Mr. HALL & HOYES and KELLY & Co., Shanghai.

Kwangtung.—Mr. HALL & HOYES and KELLY & Co., Shanghai.

Kwangsi.—Mr. HALL & HOYES and KELLY & Co., Shanghai.

Canton.—Mr. HALL & HOYES and KELLY & Co., Shanghai.

London.—Mr. F. ALGER, Clement's Lane.

Gos. STREET, 30, CORNELL.

Messrs. TRIMBLE & Co.

Bath.—Mr. HENRY & Co.

San Francisco, Mr. L. P. FISHER, 21, Merchant's Exchange.

New York.—Messrs. S. M. FRASER & Co., 57, Park Row.

NOW READY.

BOUND VOLUMES of the TRADE REPORT for the year 1871, Price \$10.
Apply at the Daily Press Office.

Hongkong, 22nd January, 1872.

The delivery of the Daily Press from the office commenced on Thursday morning at 10:05, and the last messengers left the office at 10:47.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, FEBRUARY 16TH, 1872.

The history of the recent cracker prosecutions appears to deserve more than the passing notice already given to it. So far as we understand the matter, it was one of the most delicious illustrations of the manner in which the small details of Government are managed in Hongkong that has come before the public for a very long time. It was not until the morning after China New Year's Day that it was thought necessary to give any intimation to the native population regarding the firing of crackers; and as it is a moral certainty that, if left to themselves about New Year's time, the natives will indulge in firing of crackers, bang went the fire works in all directions, not only on New Year's Day, but the following morning, when a large number of people were making their way to the Race Course, the pleasing result being a crowd of prancing, kicking and rearing horses and ponies on the road to the Valley. Fortunately nothing more serious occurred than that Inspector O'Leary had a spill, which, by the way, ought properly to have occurred to the CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT, who, it is a wonder, did not fall on his own sword. However, up to past eight o'clock on the morning after China New Year's Day no notice had reached either Police or Chinese on the subject of crackers, and constables were seen looking on with evident amusement, while the natives were firing of their miniature bombs to the danger of passers-by. It seems however, that on China New Year's night an order went forth from the CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT to the Central Station that next day all firing of crackers was to be stopped, but that this was not communicated to the constables till later on in the day, that is, after all the inconvenience to those going to the Race Course had been experienced. Shortly after the morning ride had made their way to their respective homes, thankful for their providential escape from the dangers of the streets, the order from the Central office was communicated to the policemen. This was done after the Vow MOLTEK style, for which the CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT has already become celebrated. The telegraph was called into requisition, and in an instant the words "cease firing" were flashed East and West and North and South—from Sowkwan to Aberdeen, from Stanley to the extreme end of Pedder's Wharf. The easy contented attitude of the police was, in an instant changed into one of stern vigilance, and braving the volley of crackers fired in all directions, they speedily made tens and hundreds of Chinese prisoners, and brought them up to be detained a whole day, and finally fixed fifty cents, after being impressed by the Magistrate with the fact that they were living in a British Colony, and were extremely stupid to indulge in a practice which must endanger the lives of the foreign residents, and had actually caused an Inspector to have a decided crupper. In consideration of their having acted in ignorance, Mr. MAY, strictly following the scriptural principle, did not beat them with many stripes, or rather fined them with many cents; but while limiting the punishment to a modest half dollar, he intimated that if the defendants were brought up again for the same offence, they would be more severely dealt with. Now may it not be fairly asked whether after all these unfortunate Chinamen have not been very hardly dealt with; and whether their plea that they did not know they were infringing any regulation was not one entitling them to be dismissed at the utmost with a warning. If the natives are to be allowed to fire off crackers on New Year's Day—a privilege of which no one can wish to deprive them—surely it would have been only common sense to have noticed the former.

The CHAIRMAN having stated the object of the meeting, the resolution passed on the 1st February was confirmed unanimously. The meeting then separated, with the usual compliment to the Chair.

for China. New Year, intimating to the natives that they could fire as much as they liked on New Year's Day, and could do so on the two subsequent days between fixed hours. Experience shows that it is quite possible, even without the aid of the telegraph, to have notices in Chinese posted in time even at such far distant places as Aberdeen or Stanley, by issuing them a day before China New Year; and by this means the necessity for taking Chinamen up by telegraph may be entirely obviated. From all we hear, it seems that the blundering resulted obliquely from a doubt as to whether the CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT or the REGISTRAR-GENERAL was the proper person to issue the notification.

"Really the Government had better put these matters into the hands of one of the junior clerks in a mercantile house, who would be able with the aid of the compradore to issue a notice of this kind in any space five minutes he might have during the day, and could get any foreign gentleman acquainted with Chinese to tell him whether the document contained the requisite intimation—or could not we manage an affair of this kind better by a little common sense than by the aid of the telegraphic manceuvres of the CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT combined with all the diplomatic talents of the REGISTRAR-GENERAL?

Private advices from Manila state that it is believed all the instigators of the late insurrections are prisoners, and will be shot as tried and found guilty.

The Manila papers notice that Mr. F. W. Mitchell, Postmaster-General of Hongkong, is to receive the Cross of Carlos III, as an acknowledgement of his distinguished services in favor of the Manila Government during the past eight years.

The Artillery of the Royal Artillery gave a dramatic entertainment last night, assisted by Miss Fanny Wiseman. Two capital farces, one ever popular—"Box and Cox," were given, and went off very well, and Miss Wiseman's songs were very much appreciated.

The Advertiser of yesterday gave an account of the following changes in the Government, which, on enquiry, we understand are correct. The Hon. Mr. Smith to be Colonial-Secretary; Mr. Tonnochy, Registrar-General; Mr. Lister, Assistant Harbour-Master; and Mr. May, Treasurer.

The CHAIRMAN said he had to judge from the following paragraph in the Singapore Times of Feb. 2nd—"If any positive document were needed for which it is used, it was afforded yesterday by the undignified spectacle presented during a heavy squall, when the Chief Justice, after asking for an umbrella, was obliged to suspend the proceedings, leave his seat, and take shelter below his bench, at the Registrar's office, in the damage he was doing to the open window behind him, when, spray from the falling rain even wetting the jurors in the jury-box. Such a scene as this in our highest Court cannot fail to lower it in the estimation of the natives. A scuffle has been put up behind the Judge's chair to-day, but though useful, it is not ornamental.

The following notice from the Calcutta Eng. News of November 10th will convey an idea of the nature of the entertainment to be given by Mr. Heller.

The entertainment given by Mr. Heller and his sister Miss Haidee, at the Theatre on the Maiden on Tuesday evening, was a great success. The slight-hand trick of Mr. Heller were managed with a skill and artfulness we have never seen surpassed. His method, for instance, of "raising the wind,"—as the propane said it, by placing sticks from the piano's hair to the ceiling, was really very wonderful and elicited, as it deserved, rounds of applause. The Indian Basket Trick—which created such a sensation in London—when performed by Colonel Stordart some years ago, was never so cleverly managed. Mr. Heller's trick, it may be mentioned, are accompanied by a running fire of smart jokers and witcisms, which keep the audience continually on the "grit." The greatest success of the evening was, however, the "Hand Trick,"—a really very wonderful and elicited, as it deserved, rounds of applause. 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COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

FEBRUARY 16TH, EVENING.

There is not much change in the value of the **gold** market. The following are the ruling prices of **gold**, New \$650 to \$6575, on cash and credit terms; New **Bankers**, \$652 to \$6575, cash and credit; Old, \$670 to \$6775, cash and credit; **Malwa**, \$620 to \$630, cash and credit.

FEBRUARY 16TH, MORNING.

No change.

SHARES.

Hongkong, Bank Shares, Old—64, per cent. premium. **Hongkong**, Bank Shares, New—62, per cent. premium.

Union Insurance Society of Canton, new shares—\$100 per share premium.

China Traders' Insurance Company's Shares—\$100 per share premium.

China and Japan Marine Insurance—Tls. 185 per cent. premium.

Hongkong Fire Insurance Company's Shares—\$35 per share premium.

China Fire Insurance Company's Shares—\$60 per share premium.

Victoria Fire Insurance Company's Shares—\$65 per share premium.

Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company's Shares—25 per cent. discount.

Hongkong, Ocean and River Steamboat Co.'s Shares—32 per cent. premium.

Shanghai Steam Navigation Company—Tls. 145 per share.

China Sea, Saigon, and Straits Steamship Company—5 per cent. discount.

China and Straits Steam Navigation Company—25 per cent. discount.

Hongkong Gas Company's Shares—\$65 per share discount.

Hongkong Hotel Company's Shares—45 per cent. discount.

Hongkong Distillery Company—10 per cent. premium.

Indo-Chinese Sugar Company—\$20 per share discount.

Hongkong Pier and Godown Company—\$8 to 9 per share discount, nominal.

EXCHANGE.

On London, Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight—Bank Bills, at 6 months' sight, 45/4. Credits, at 6 months' sight, 45/4. Documentary Bills, at 6 months' sight—45/4.

Bank Bills on demand, 4/4. Bank Bills, at 3 months' sight—45/4.

On **New York**—Private, 5 months' sight—

On **London**—Bank, 3 days' sight—21/2.

On **London**, Bank, 3 days' sight—21/2.

Bills, 3 days' sight—7/4.

Bank, 15 days' sight—7/4.

Private, 30 days' sight—7/4.

SALES ON FEBRUARY 16TH, 1872.

As reported by **Chinese**.

White Sugar, 500 bags, at \$5.60, **Kwong-fook**, to travelling merchant.

Turnips, 20 bags, at \$9.50, by **Kwong-fook**, to travelling merchant.

Dried Lily Flowers, 10 piculs, at \$18.00, by **Kwong-fook**, to travelling merchant.

Mushrooms, 40 cases at \$35.00, by **Kwong-fook**, to travelling merchant.

Salon Rice, 1,500 piculs, at \$2.72, by **Hopping** to **Hongkong** merchant.

White Tea, 50 piculs, at \$20.05, by **Hopping**, to travelling merchant.

Red Dates, 50 piculs, at Tls. 2.70, by **Kintak**, to **Hongkong** merchant.

Siang Tea, 200 slabs, at \$12.00, by **Kintak**, to **Hongkong** merchant.

Black Tea, 200 slabs, at \$12.00, by **Kintak**, to **Hongkong** merchant.

Houses, Lands, Tenements, &c.

TO LET.

From the 1st of March next.

THAT commodious and well-known **BUNGALOW**, situated in the **Albany**, (in the rear of Mr. W. H. **ALEXANDER**'s house), at present occupied by **MESSRS. HUGHES AND BOTTLEY**, containing six rooms, with Bath-rooms, Out-rooms, and a three-stalled Stable, and having a splendid Garden all round the premises.

For particulars, apply at No. 16, **Lynchurst Terrace**, **Hongkong**, 14th February, 1872.

TO LET.

A BED-ROOM, with BATH-ROOM and VERANDAH attached.

A TWO-STALLED STABLE and COACH-HOUSE.

Apply at 23, **Hollywood Road**, **Hongkong**, 12th February, 1872.

TO LET.

(Possession from 1st March next.)

THE HOUSE No. 7, West Terrace, Castle Road.

Apply to J. P. de COSTA, **Hongkong**, 1st February, 1872.

TO LET.

THE HOUSE No. 9, Hollywood Road, containing 8 Rooms, has a good view of the Harbor. Apply to N. H. HOSKINS, 42, **Hollywood Road**, **Hongkong**, 1st February, 1872.

TO LET.

With possession from the 1st March.

A COMPLETELY FURNISHED HOUSE, situated on Carlton Terrace, Spring Gardens, and containing 8 Rooms on the first floor, with Offices, Stabling, Croquet Lawn, Garden, &c., **Modern**.

For particulars, apply to L. M. ATKINSON & Co., **Hongkong**, 1st January, 1872.

TO LET.

With possession on 1st January.

THE PREMISES in Queen's Road, now in the occupation of **MESSRS. SCHELLHAAS & Co.** Apply to DOUGLAS LAPRAIK & Co., **Hongkong**, 1st January, 1872.

TO LET.

With possession on 1st January.

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TO LET.

Extracts.

Real and Spurious Gems.
(New York Herald.)

The Jews were acquainted at an early age with the traffic in false gems, if not with the art of manufacturing them, is beyond question. There are learned historians who are ill-natured and heterodox enough to insinuate that, in speaking so often of gems in the Pentateuch, Moses had an eye to the worldly prosperity of some of his friends. Be this as it may, the great lawgiver was always rather fond of recommending costly ornaments in one form or other.

Take the breastplate of Aaron, for example:—"And thou shalt set it in settings of stones, even four rows of stones. The first row shall be a sardius, a topaz, and a carbuncle; and the second row shall be an emerald, a sapphire, and a diamond; and the third row a figure, an agate, and an amethyst, and the fourth row a beryl, and an onyx, and a lapis." This is sufficiently plain. Nor did merely Moses recommend the precious things. In the same chapter (Exodus xxviii.) he adds:—"And the stones shall be engraved with the names of the children of Israel, twelve according to their tribes, like the engravings of a signet."

Bishop Colenso is not the only critic who remarks that, if all the gems the Jews are said to, have possessed, to have possessed had been real, they would have left none but spurious gems to the rest of the world.

Had we no other proof of the skill of the Greeks in the art of counterfeiting precious stones but their mosaics, the latter would be sufficient. Many engraved stones to be seen at the principal art galleries of Europe were regarded for ages as real gems; it is but recently that some of them have been proved to be nothing more, after all, than artificial crystal. Almost everybody has heard of the celebrated Portland Vase now in the British Museum. This was long regarded as the finest porcelain; and, finally, one of the most curious living chemists had considerable difficulty in proving even to his constituents that the precious article was composed of deep blue glass. Nor is it merely the form and position of the vase that shows wonderful skill. "The sculpture," says the poet Rogers, "is in the greatest perfection; and the figures full of grace and expression; every stroke as fine, sharp, and perfect as any drawn by a pencil." Yet the Portland Vase is not Greek, but Etruscan. Exquisite as it is, it does not approach many of the Greek vases as a specimen of ancient art.

Now, can we of the present age boast of our numerous discoveries and inventions, and, at the same time, deny that the moderns can imitate gems so as to deceive four-fifths of those who buy such articles? This question can be the more easily answered if it be borne in mind that science has much more to do with the work than art. There is not a schoolboy we meet who will not tell us how much better the moderns understand chemistry and geology than the ancients did.

If this be true—and we do not deny it—the moderns can imitate the precious gems more successfully than the ancients.

Nowhere has chemistry—the science most essential for this purpose—been brought to greater perfection than in France. Accordingly, none have attained more skill in the art of imitating gems than the French. If the revenue that Paris has derived from this source alone for the last quarter of a century were stated in plain figures, it would seem more fabulous than any story in the "Arabian Nights." But it would seem worse than fabulous to say that three-fourths of those gems which are worn daily, or at least nightly, in New York, Philadelphia, and Boston, including those that sparkle on the bosoms of some of our great men, have contributed to that revenue, in proportion to their size and other characteristics. Yet it would really be no exaggeration of the fact.

Let those who think we want to trespass on their credibility turn to the works of Kunckel, Neri, and Fontenelle. That of M. Fontenelle alone would be sufficient. This learned member of the Royal Academy of Sciences has been engaged, by a long series of experiments, to produce a perfectly colourless crystal. This he calls *fordant*, or *borax*; he has formed one by each of five different processes; he has also shown how the various colours are produced, according to a given tint; the crystal is intended to be a diamond, an amethyst, an emerald, a ruby, &c. Several German chemists have given the world the benefit of their researches on the same subject, and some have emulated themselves and others by this. This is true, for example, of Professor Lippert, of Dresden, who prepared three thousand casts; of these one jeweller bought one thousand, and rapidly made his fortune; the remainder were purchased by different jewellers, each of whom obtained the price of real gems.

Now we mention these as affairs of to-day, this year, last year. We do not present them as novelties. Incredibly as were the results produced by the chemists and lapidaries we have mentioned, those results have been much improved upon within the last decade, so that at the present day even connoisseurs find it no slight difficulty to distinguish the genuine gem from the spurious.

Those aware how slight the difference is between many of the most precious real gems, and how easily the chemist can dissolve the hardest minerals and convert them into "crystal," will believe this much more readily than those who know nothing either of geology or chemistry. Indeed, we should have little difficulty in convincing the best informed of the former class if we had only space to point out the ingredients, and describe the processes, used in producing the fictitious gems. This we intend to do on a future occasion. At present we can only remind the reader of a few general principles. Since the celebrated experiments of Lavoisier every person of ordinary intelligence is aware that the diamond is simply pure carbon crystallised, and that it can be burned in oxygen, the sole result of the combustion being carbonic acid. M. Desprez, another French chemist, has actually made real diamonds, having melted and crystallised carbon by means of a galvanic battery; but Nature has so carefully kept the secret to herself that the learned Frenchman's diamonds are so small as to be visible only with a microscope. It will be admitted that one capable of making even microscopic diamonds that are real could produce an imitation the spuriousity of which it would be difficult to detect.

Then, how many of the most precious gems are but varieties of quartz or silicon— one of the commonest rocks? This is true of the amethyst, the agate, the onyx, the chalcedony, the corian, and the chalcocite. The ornamental ruby and the sapphire are but corundum differently coloured. Again, emerald is but a variety of beryl, and owes its colour to the oxide of chromium. Even the noble opal, the most difficult of all gems to counterfeit, on account of its beautiful variety or play of colours, is composed chiefly of silica. But enough for to-day. When, on a future occasion, we describe some of the processes to which certain ingredients are subjected, we think the majority of our readers will be in a proper frame of mind to understand that there is as much spurious jewellery used at the present day as spurious champagne.

WORK FOR THE "ALABAMA" COMMISSIONERS.—At the recent meeting at Geneva, Dr. E. J. Eitel, of the American Commission, was appointed President, and Mr. G. B. Borden, the Italian member, was appointed Vice-President, each member of the Tribunal, a correspondent writes, received from the English and American Governments a mass of printed documents filling a large trunk. These they will have to study previously to the next meeting of the Tribunal, on the 15th June.

Intimations.

THE INDO-CHINESE SUGAR COMPANY LIMITED.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

SHAREHOLDERS are hereby notified that in accordance with the 36th Clause of the Articles of Association of the Company, the Fourth Call of Twelve Dollars and Fifty Cents per share is payable on the 31st December current, and is now proposed to grant Insurance on the same. The sum of \$100,000.00 is to be paid to the Company on the 31st December current, and is now proposed to grant Insurance on the same. The sum of \$100,000.00 is to be paid to the Company on the 31st December current.

Interest at the rate of Twelve per cent. per annum will be charged on all calls paid after that day.

By order,

A. NOEL BLAKEMORE,
Secretary.

2097 Hongkong, 6th December, 1871.

CHINA TRADERS' INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

SHAREHOLDERS in the above Company are requested to furnish the undersigned with a list of Premium contributed by them during the year ended 31st October last, for the distribution of the 25 per cent. Profit reserved for the contractors to the Company.

AUGUSTINE HEARD & CO.,
General Agents.

2m 134 Hongkong, 19th January, 1872.

CHINESE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

ADJUSTMENT OF BONDS FOR THE EIGHT MONTHS ENDING SIX DECEMBER, 1871.

SHAREHOLDERS in the above Company are requested to hand to the undersigned, before the 1st March next, a List of their Contributions for the year ending 31st December, 1871, in order that the distribution of 25 per cent. Profit reserved for Contractors to be made.

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General Agents.

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THE SAIGON STEVEDORE AND LIGHTERAGE CO.

BALLAST DISCHARGED AND CARGO STOWED BY EXPERIENCED HONGKONG MEN.

GALL & SKINNER,
Managers.

THE HONG KONG DISPENSARY,
A.D. 1841.

A. S. WATSON & CO.
FAMILY AND DISPENSING CHEMISTS.

(By appointment to
H. E. THE GOVERNOR AND HOUSE HOLD,

AND TO H. E. THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH,
of 1833.)

NOTICE.

THE undersigned, Sweet-meat Dealers' Shop, has been established at Canton for a number of years, and we know no other branch elsewhere than the one established in this City. The success of this most delicious and unrivalled preserve has excited the impudent and dishonest to copy it. Hoping that those (who are eager to obtain money by illegal means), to apply the name of "CHY LOONG" to their own inferior Goods. Thus the Public is cheated; but what good will be to the evil disposer who will be punished by the visitation of God? The Public are, therefore, requested to send their orders direct to our establishment at Canton, Honan, and this is the only way in which to secure the real article.

CHY LOONG.

Sweet-meat Dealers' Shop, Canton.

6m 1844 Canton, 30th October, 1871.

APPEAL FOR THE FOUNDATION OF A NEW LIBRARY AT STRASBOURG.

STRASBOURG has lost its magnificent Library! We regret to state that according to official inquiries made on the spot nothing of it, absolutely nothing, has been saved. The losses sustained by the unfortunate University have every where evoked most hearty sympathies, and the public generally are inclined to sympathise with association, and to contribute a sum, in proportion to their size and other characteristics. Yet it would really be no exaggeration of the fact.

Let those who think we want to trespass on their credibility turn to the works of Kunckel, Neri, and Fontenelle. That of M. Fontenelle alone would be sufficient.

This learned member of the Royal Academy of Sciences has been engaged, by a long series of experiments, to produce a perfectly colourless crystal. This he calls *fordant*, or *borax*;

he has formed one by each of five different processes; he has also shown how the various colours are produced, according to a given tint; the crystal is intended to be a diamond, an amethyst, an emerald, a ruby, &c. Several German chemists have given the world the benefit of their researches on the same subject, and some have emulated themselves and others by this. This is true, for example, of Professor Lippert, of Dresden, who prepared three thousand casts; of these one jeweller bought one thousand, and rapidly made his fortune; the remainder were purchased by different jewellers, each of whom obtained the price of real gems.

Now we mention these as affairs of to-day, this year, last year. We do not present them as novelties. Incredibly as were the results produced by the chemists and lapidaries we have mentioned, those results have been much improved upon within the last decade, so that at the present day even connoisseurs find it no slight difficulty to distinguish the genuine gem from the spurious.

Those aware how slight the difference is between many of the most precious real gems, and how easily the chemist can dissolve the hardest minerals and convert them into "crystal," will believe this much more readily than those who know nothing either of geology or chemistry. Indeed, we should have little difficulty in convincing the best informed of the former class if we had only space to point out the ingredients, and describe the processes, used in producing the fictitious gems. This we intend to do on a future occasion. At present we can only remind the reader of a few general principles. Since the celebrated experiments of Lavoisier every person of ordinary intelligence is aware that the diamond is simply pure carbon crystallised, and that it can be burned in oxygen, the sole result of the combustion being carbonic acid. M. Desprez, another French chemist, has actually made real diamonds, having melted and crystallised carbon by means of a galvanic battery; but Nature has so carefully kept the secret to herself that the learned Frenchman's diamonds are so small as to be visible only with a microscope. It will be admitted that one capable of making even microscopic diamonds that are real could produce an imitation the spuriousity of which it would be difficult to detect.

Then, how many of the most precious gems are but varieties of quartz or silicon— one of the commonest rocks? This is true of the amethyst, the agate, the onyx, the chalcedony, the corian, and the chalcocite. The ornamental ruby and the sapphire are but corundum differently coloured. Again, emerald is but a variety of beryl, and owes its colour to the oxide of chromium. Even the noble opal, the most difficult of all gems to counterfeit, on account of its beautiful variety or play of colours, is composed chiefly of silica. But enough for to-day. When, on a future occasion, we describe some of the processes to which certain ingredients are subjected, we think the majority of our readers will be in a proper frame of mind to understand that there is as much spurious jewellery used at the present day as spurious champagne.

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